

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/783,438

Examiner

Allyson N. Trail

Applicant(s)

AUCHINLECK, GEOFF

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 8/15/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 6-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7-2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed August 15, 2005.

Remarks

2. The current amendment has overcome the prior objection to claim 1. Additionally, previously rejected claims 15-20 have been cancelled. Therefore claims 1-3 and 6-14 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 1-3 and 6-14 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The best prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest the method for tracking blood transfusions and method for collecting and storing in a computer database information about blood transfusions, disclosed in the current invention. Although prior art has teachings of tracking the movement of blood and further teaches the importance of administering the correct medication/blood/treatment to the correct patient by obtaining identifying information for a patient and providing the patient with a wristband, which includes patient identifying information, the prior art taken of record fails to teach each of the specific and detailed limitations of the claimed method. The claimed method for tracking blood transfusion includes collecting a blood sample from a patient and testing the sample to determine the type of blood required by the patient, allocating from a supply of blood units a blood transfusion unit for the patient, wherein the blood transfusion unit contains the

Art Unit: 2876

type of blood required by the patient and wherein the blood transfusion is marked with an identifying code. The method further includes labeling the allocated blood transfusion with a compatibility label, wherein the label comprises the patient identifying information and the identifying code. Also included in the tracking method is the generation of a blood unit request slip for the patient, wherein the slip includes the patient identifying information, retrieving the blood transfusion unit and verifying the unit's identity by comparing the patient identifying information on the blood unit request slip to the patient information on the compatibility label on the patient allocated blood transfusion unit, comparing the patient information from the patient's wristband to the patient identifying information on the compatibility label on the patient allocated blood transfusion unit, and lastly, comparing the identifying code marked on the patient allocated blood unit with the identifying code on the compatibility label on the patient allocated blood transfusion unit. The claimed method for collecting and storing in a computer database information about blood transfusion includes limitations not disclosed in prior art. These limitations include reading patient identification information from a wristband and printing a blood sample identification label, wherein the label includes the patient's information. This label is applied to the blood sample. The claimed method further includes transmitting patient information to a computer database each time a blood sample identification label is printed, selecting a blood unit suitable for transfusion into the patient from a supply of blood units and marking the blood unit with a unique blood unit identification code. Further still, the method includes reading the patient

Art Unit: 2876

identification information and the blood unit identification code from the compatibility label, reading the patient identification information from the wristband, and comparing the patient information from the wristband to the patient identification information on the compatibility label. The blood unit identification code on the compatibility label is compared with the blood unit identification code on the blood unit and an alarm is provided if the patient identification information from the wristband does not match the patient identification information on the compatibility label or if the blood unit identification code on the compatibility label does not match the blood unit identification code on the blood unit, and lastly transmitting the patient identification information read from the wristband, the blood unit identification code read from the blood unit, and the patient identification information and blood unit identification read from the compatibility label to a computer database.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

Art Unit: 2876

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [allyson.trail@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
August 29, 2005

Jared J. Fureman
JARED J. FUREMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER